(b) when was this meeting held;

(c) the steps that Government would take to study the concept of a joint venture between Government and State Governments to make available an easy system of issuing licenses all over the country; and

(d) the steps proposed to give priority to this idea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Licencing Authorities appointed by the State Governments are empowered to conduct driving test and issue Driving Licences to the eligible persons in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Rules made thereunder. There is no proposal to study the concept of a Joint Venture between Central and State Governments regarding issuance of Driving Licence.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Retirement age conciliation proceedings

†1321. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the conciliation proceedings pending before Chief Labour Commissioner, GOI, New Delhi for restoring age of retirement from 58 to 60 years; and

(b) if so, the status of the matter as far as the demand made by employees' union in this matter is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Labour Commissioner [CLC(C)] initiated conciliation proceedings on the issue of raising the age of retirement from 58 to 60 years of the employees of Major Ports on representations received from certain Labour Federations. The conciliation proceedings have not been closed.

On receipt of demands from various Workers' Federations/Unions of Major Ports under the administrative control of this Ministry to increase the retirement age from 58 years to 60 years, this Ministry constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser of Department of Shipping to look holistically into the whole matter relating to retirement age of Port and Dock employees. The Committee has submitted its report. No decision on the report has been taken.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.